

CLAIMS

1. The use of an allergen-reducing amount of an allergen-deactivating compound (hereinafter the "deactivant"),
5 dispersed into an airspace at which an allergen-contaminated inanimate substrate is located, to achieve a prolonged reduction in the allergen loading of the substrate, wherein the reduction after 14 days is at least as great as the initial reduction.
- 10 2. The use of an allergen-reducing amount of an allergen-deactivating compound (hereinafter the "deactivant"), dispersed into an airspace at which an allergen-contaminated inanimate substrate is located, to achieve a
15 prolonged reduction in the allergen loading of the substrate, wherein the reduction after 28 days is at least as great as the initial reduction.
3. The use as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the
20 deactivant dispersed into the airspace is as a vapour.
4. The use as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the dispersal of the deactivant dispersed into the airspace is aided by heat.
- 25 5. The use as claimed in claim 4, wherein the heat applied to the deactivant is by use of an oil burner, candle or hotplate.
- 30 6. The use as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the deactivant is dispersed into the airspace over a period of at least 30 minutes.

7. The use as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the deactivant is selected from:

5 a terpene hydrocarbon;
 a citrus oil;
 a mint oil;
 bois de rose oil;
 oil of jasmine;
 frankincense;
10 oil of bergamot; and
 oil of lemon grass;
 or a component thereof.

8. The use as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the
15 deactivant comprises a terpene hydrocarbon or a component thereof.

9. The use as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the deactivant comprises β -pinene.

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10. The use as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the deactivant comprises orange oil or a component thereof.

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